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All MSS. and letters relating thereto should be addressed to the Editor, The Common Cause, *Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1]*

Notes and News.

The Education Bill.

The concessions made by Mr. Fisher about the Education Bill have come as a shock to a good many educationalists. On Thursday, June 6th, the House went into Committee on Clause 10, which deals with compulsory attendance at Continuation Schools. Sir H. Hibbert (Lancashire, N., Chorley) had moved an Amendment proposing an alternative system. According to the Bill, the hours of attendance at Continuation Schools were to spread over four years from fourteen to eighteen years of age, according to the amendment they were to be compressed into the two years between fourteen and sixteen. After the amendment had been explained, Mr. Fisher rose, and said that there were unanswerable objections to making the half-time system mandatory even for two years, amongst them the fact that it would, for a time at least, tend to lower wages; and that it would increase the difficulties about the provision of teachers and school accommodation. But while refusing to accept the amendment, Mr. Fisher announced that he would omit from the Bill the proviso which enabled the Board of Education, after consultation with the local authorities, to increase the number of hours for Continuation Classes. He added that he would himself move an amendment to Clause 10, to the effect that the obligation to attend Continuation Schools should not, within a period of seven years, apply to young persons between sixteen and eighteen, nor after such a period to any young person who had attained the age of sixteen before the expiration of the period. That is to say, that for seven years to come continued education will only be compulsory for children under sixteen, while at the same time there will not be any more of it in those years (as proposed by the Lancashire amendment), but only, at the best, the 320 hours a year, which seems to most educationalists so miserably insufficient. But even that will not be general throughout the country: the worst blow of all was Mr. Fisher's further announcement, that local authorities are to have power to reduce the 320 hours to 280 when they think it desirable. The object of these concessions, so much greater than were asked for, even by Lancashire, is, no doubt, Mr. Fisher's great anxiety to make sure that the principle of continued education should be affirmed, but many of those who have most warmly supported him up to now feel that the sacrifice of the present generation of school-children is too great. On June 10th, an Amendment, moved by Mr. Snowden, providing that the local authorities under schemes approved by the Board of Education, should pay maintenance allowances for young persons in compulsory attendance at Continuation Schools was rejected by the House by one hundred and forty-three votes to fifty-four.

Women and the Service Vote.

Is there any lingering doubt whether a woman can or cannot qualify for the Local and Parliamentary Franchises on the "Service occupation" qualification? There is no real doubt about it at all. A woman "Service occupier" is entitled to the Local Government vote. The wife (if thirty years of age) of a man "Service occupier" is entitled to the Local Government vote. Every woman of thirty who is a "Service occupier" or the wife of a "Service occupier" is entitled to the Parliamentary vote. And what is a "Service occupier"? A "Service occupier" is a man or woman who himself or herself inhabits any dwelling-house by virtue of any office, service, or employment, if the dwelling-house is not inhabited by the person in whose service he is. And what is a "dwelling-house"? A "dwelling-house" is any room or rooms occupied separately for purposes of residence. So that the matter is really perfectly simple.

Women M.P.'s.

Beyond our wildest hopes is the friendly attitude adopted towards women's claims to sit in Parliament. Where we had expected opposition there is barely even surprise, and logic seems suddenly and finally to have given prejudice its *congé*. This week the matter came up for a few moments' discussion in the House of Commons, and Mr. Bonar Law gave his opinion that "it was mainly a question of law which was being examined." "A question of law!" Suffragists will scarcely shrink from facing that, who have so successfully dealt with a question of prejudice and law combined!

Nationality of Married Women.

The British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill is expected to come up shortly for its second reading in the House of Commons. This Bill claims to amend the Nationality Laws of Britain, but it leaves unmentioned the crying injustice whereby a woman of British birth and parentage, upon marriage with an alien, herself becomes an alien in her own country. The omission of any clause removing this injustice is the cause of great regret and anxiety to feminists. The National Union of Women Workers realises, with other women's organisations, how serious would be an amendment of the nationality laws which did not improve the position of British wives of aliens. It therefore arranged a joint deputation to the Home Office, which had the support of twenty-eight societies. The Home Office has refused to receive this deputation. The position is consequently even graver than before. The case for women has not failed: it has not been heard. In the meantime the Imperial Conference is meeting, and the opportunity is offered to them of securing a uniformity of nationality laws within the British Empire. In Australia a woman enjoys the same choice of nationality as a man: in Canada similar legislation is promised, and it remains for the mother country to follow the lead of her daughters.

A Pioneer.

A book which is of the greatest possible interest to Suffragists has just been published by Messrs. Macmillan. It is a life of Doctor Sophie Jex Blake, by Doctor Margaret Todd. It contains a vivid account of the struggle of the women for medical education in Edinburgh. We shall review it fully in a forthcoming issue of this paper.

Next week we shall have the pleasure of publishing an article by Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C.B.E., M.D., First Controller of the W.A.A.C. on "Utilisation of Woman Power."

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Suffrage at Home and Abroad.

The Conferences of the British Dominions Women's Suffrage Union, of which we publish a report, had a special interest and importance this year. For the first time the women of this country were able to welcome their fellow-suffragists from the Dominions as fellow-citizens in the fullest sense. For, since the last such Conference, the women of Great Britain and Ireland have been enfranchised, as have the women of Canada. New Zealand and Australia led the way for the Dominions long ago, so that a majority of British women in three continents are now political voters.

What of the women of other nations?

Some months since, in a special number of The Common Cause, we published an article bringing Women's Suffrage History at home and abroad up to date. But—such is the force which the feminist movement has acquired—suffrage history inconveniently will not remain up to date, but is perpetually demanding the addition of a fresh chapter.

The chapter now required chiefly affects America, Italy, and Hungary. In America suffrage activity centres round the probability of a Federal Amendment which shall open the Federal Franchise to women State by State; the United States of America are putting their women on an equal electoral footing with men; but still they obstinately withhold from them the Federal Suffrage.

President Wilson's admitted support of the suffrage amendment to the Constitution (which has already passed the Lower House of Congress) raised high the hopes of suffragists for a speedy success. Therefore it is somewhat disappointing now to hear that the resolution proposing submission to the States of an equal suffrage amendment has been postponed because a canvass of members of the Senate has shown that there is one supporter too few for the two-thirds majority necessary to pass the resolution.

Yet, on reflection, is this a discouraging discovery? Great things were hoped for women's suffrage in U.S.A. Now it is certain that great things are close at hand—in fact distant only by one vote. And surely it is the cause of wisdom not to risk the check that the rejection of the resolution must bring to the suffrage movement by trying to force a vote on the amendment, but rather to wait the time necessary for the conversion of one obdurate senator, and then to secure victory.

Feminism in Italy we had grown accustomed to consider as affecting rather the social than the political status of women. In April of this year, however, when the question of Franchise Reform for men was raised, it became evident how closely connected with it—not only in the minds of women, but of Italy's leading statesmen—was the question of women's suffrage. Three proposals were brought forward. One for full Adult Suffrage, one for giving votes to all women who can read and write, and one for what we should call a fancy franchise, including women over thirty who can read and write or who have lost a son in the war. The Prime Minister, amidst loud applause, expressed his support of women's suffrage, but asked that the proposals should be reserved for full discussion. We publish on page 99 a full account of the present position of women in Italy by Dr. Margherita Ancona, of Milan.

The position of women's suffrage in Hungary is critical. On the accession of the new King of Hungary a huge deputation waited upon him, demanding equal universal suffrage, and assuring him that no Government which did not advocate such reform would receive popular support. As a result a new Cabinet was formed, the majority of its members being in favour of women's suffrage, and in December, 1917, an Electoral Reform Bill was introduced. Under this Bill it was proposed to enfranchise, at the age of twenty-four, all Hungarian men and women who could read or write. Women must, in addition, have passed through the four classes of the secondary school or had equivalent education. The attitude of the Hungarian Parliament towards women's suffrage was, at the time, expressed by M. Varsonyi, the Franchise Reform Minister: "Women's work has become a matter of public interest," he said, "and it is impossible therefore that we should continue to exclude them when we are extending the franchise to men." On March 20th, 1918, the Franchise Committee of the Chamber of Deputies passed the Franchise Bill with but one dissentient vote. The Government was, however, unable to agree upon the Bill and dissolved: a new Cabinet was formed in May of this year. Now we regret to read in the Press that the Franchise Committee has rejected the women's suffrage proposals by eleven votes to nine. This is naturally a disappointment to suffragists, but we hope that the check is merely temporary.

We hope shortly to publish some notes on the present position of women's suffrage in Holland.

Women and Prisons and Courts.

BY ARTHUR ST. JOHN, HON. SECRETARY, PENAL REFORM LEAGUE.

The Committee of the Penal Reform League have made the following recommendations to the Home Secretary:—

1. That either

(*a*) At least two women be added to the Prison Commission; or,

(*b*) The Prison Commissioners appoint a special Committee of Women to act as Directors of Women's Prisons and the women's portions of prisons;

2. That the Governors of Women's Prisons should invariably be women;

3. That the Medical Officers in charge of women prisoners should invariably be women;

4. That specially selected Nursing Sisters be employed in all prisons;

5. That steps be taken to bring before Judges and Magistrates

(*a*) The advisability of allowing responsible persons, especially women, interested in child welfare to attend Juvenile Courts, even if not parties to the case being tried;

(*b*) The undesirability of asking women to leave the Court when men unconnected with the Court or with the case under trial are allowed to remain;

(*c*) The desirability, in Juvenile and other Courts, where a woman or girl is a party to the case or called as witness, of securing the presence of a woman to stay by the side of such woman or girl.

Probably there is not much, of anything, in these proposals to which the Home Office, prison authorities, judges and magistrates would take serious exception. The Prison Commissioners will probably be most inclined to shy at the proposal for nursing sisters *in all prisons*, and they will probably say that it is at present impracticable. It is not, however, the business of the Penal Reform League to confine itself to proposals that are at once practicable, but to point out what would be right and reasonable, and continually to suggest these things to the public mind so that they may become practicable. We are primarily concerned, not with politicians or administrators as such, but with citizens—with men and women and their attitude of mind. And when that attitude is right then right measures become practicable.

Now the time seems ripe for at least suggesting more effective co-operation of women in our dealings with criminals. The Prison Commissioners have themselves already felt this. They have, as opportunity offered, replaced men by women at the head of the Women's Convict Prison and other penal or semi-penal institutions at Aylesbury. The first and second in command there are now both women. We want public opinion, and especially women's societies, to encourage the Commissioners to go further, to put the governorship and medical charge of Holloway Prison in the hands of women; and so on throughout the country wherever there are women prisoners. Where practicable they might follow the example of the Irish Prisons Board at Cork, where they have separated the management of the men's and women's prisons, and put a woman in sole charge of the women's prison with a woman doctor.

But there is the important matter of the selection of the right woman. Should not the selection be in the hands of women? This brings us to the question of introducing women into the higher administration. We have suggested that at least two women be added to the Prison Commission, or, as an alternative, that a special committee of women be appointed to manage the women's prisons and women's portions of prisons. If the Prison Commissioners took unto themselves women colleagues, they might quite possibly make a bad choice. Or even if they made a fairly good choice, one or two Women Commissioners (and it is not improbable that, with their habitual modesty, they would begin with one) might not make much difference to the spirit and method of the Commission, might not be able, for a long time, to make their practical, feminine influence felt. Therefore, we have suggested an alternative which seems preferable in some respects. A committee entirely composed of women having the management of the women's prisons to themselves would be more likely to strike out on a line of their own.

"But," asks someone, "why should not women also have something to do with men's prisons?" Well, why not? If you can get the Prison Commissioners and Home Office authorities to agree, I think it would be excellent. Especially is woman's influence needed in the catering and kitchen departments. We have long maintained that this department of the prison service, as of the Army service, will never be satisfactory until it is taken in hand by women, the real economists.

But there is another direction in which women's help is very badly needed. This we indicate under our fourth head, "Nurses in Prison." We regard this as an urgently needed reform. But the success would depend on the selection of the right kind of nursing sisters. It may seem undemocratic, but, under existing conditions, it is of the first importance that the sisters should be of a social position which would enable them to address governor and medical officer on a footing of social equality, and take their proper professional status from the first. Given satisfactory selection, which must, of course, be carried out by a competent woman or women, the introduction of these nursing sisters into the prisons—men's prisons as well as women's prisons—would not only mean more efficient carrying out of the medical and hygienic department and a great help to the doctors, but a change in the atmosphere and spirit of the prison and the prison service.

I hope our suggestions under the fifth head require little explanation or advocacy. Responsible and properly interested persons are often welcomed in Juvenile Courts, but not always. The presence of the right kind of people is an assistance to the Court and helps to create a desirable atmosphere of social helpfulness. Courts, especially Juvenile Courts, should be centres of regeneration, to use a phrase used in the title of one of our leaflets.

Again, why should women bent on serious enquiry and helpfulness be turned out of a Court for fear that their purity should be shocked by indecent details when young men probably bent on other purposes are allowed to remain? As to the last paragraph, it surely needs no argument to demonstrate the cruelty of leaving a woman or girl alone in a court in distressing circumstances without a woman, preferably a relative or friend, to stand by her through the ordeal.

Some of the changes above detailed will require expenditure of public funds. All, I fear, will require a good deal of patience and persistence to bring them about. In either case the difficulties can be overcome by the determined pressure of women of public spirit.

Notes on the Position of Women in Italy.

BY DOCTOR MARGHERITA ANCONA OF THE CONSITATO LOMBARDO PRO SUFFRAGIO FEMMINILE.

[We are delighted to be able to publish the following communication from Doctor Margherita Ancona, whose work is well known to many Suffragists. We had asked her for some up-to-date information as to the position of Italian women, and especially the position of the Suffrage question in Italy; and she was good enough to send us these notes telling us that we might make what use we liked of them. We think that our readers will prefer to have them in their freshness without alteration or abbreviation, and we have therefore merely translated them. The only comment we would make is to call the attention of our readers to the extraordinary parallels between the Parliamentary proceedings about Suffrage in Italy with those in England. Events in Italy have not yet resulted in the victory of Women's Suffrage, but it seems probable that in a little while the parallel lines of events may reach the same happy conclusion.]

The position of Women is not worse in Italy than it is in most other European countries; they can enter most of the professions (except the different branches of the legal profession and a few others), but they are not admitted to most Government employments. It now appears that in the proposed reform of the telephonic and telegraphic services (in which women are employed in large numbers, but with lower pay and worse conditions than those given to men), the principle of the complete equality of the sexes will be admitted, and it is hoped that, as all the Government services are likely to be reformed shortly, this example will be followed in all.

As to Education: there are few girls' schools except the Elementary ones, but all boys' schools, without exception, admit girls, who are also allowed to become teachers, not only in almost all the Elementary schools and in all the Universities, but also in the Junior Secondary schools (for children between ten and fifteen years old). A great many women teach in the Senior Secondary schools (for children between fifteen and eighteen years old), but, generally, they are not employed all the time, but are supplementary and, therefore, have not stable work. We are now hoping that in all the Secondary schools which admit girls, women will also be admitted as teachers. In

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the Elementary schools the women teachers are paid rather less than the men, but in the Secondary schools and Universities they have equal pay. In the same way the women doctors in the Civil Hospitals and in the Army Hospitals, in which a few have given medical service since the beginning of the war, receive equal stipends.

Women can exercise trade in Italy, and in this case *Marital Authorisation* is abolished. (This is a legal disability which prevents a married woman from disposing of her own money or goods without the written consent of her husband.) A Bill is now before Parliament, initiated by the present Minister of Justice—l'On : Sacchi—which will abolish *Marital Authorisation* and will extend the rights of guardianship, and the right of admission to public offices to women. Italian Suffragists feel sure that when this Bill passes into law it will remove the legal obstacles to the political equality of the sexes and that the franchise will be practically won.

In a general way, Italian women are more taken up with social questions than with Women's Suffrage. I believe that the reason is this : as we have not even got the Local Government vote, we have not had much practical opportunity of taking part in politics, and the political parties, not having any immediate need of women, have not troubled to undertake their political education. The Socialists (your Labour Party) and the Clerical Party have done a good deal to organise women, but the other parties have done nothing at all, and therefore, in the middle and upper classes, women not only have not got any political organisation, but have not even the possibility of creating one. The war, by forcing women to think about strictly political problems, has rather modified this state of things, and even at this moment things are gradually changing in such a way as to prepare the minds of women, and to show the parties the need that they should not abandon women to Socialist and Clerical propaganda only.

As to the question of votes, as I have told you, we have neither the local nor the Parliamentary vote. We do, however, vote like men for the Chamber of Commerce, the College of *Probiviri* and the *Consiglio Superiore* (which is a kind of tribunal for public administration), and for professional bodies. Women can take part in the administration of religious and philanthropic institutions, hospitals, orphanages, &c , but naturally the Communes which give these posts to women are few, although the results have been satisfactory when they have done so. The Commune which has the largest number of women in philanthropic posts in proportion to the population is that of Caltagirone in Sicily.

The question of votes for women has nearly always been discussed rather in its political than in its feminist aspect. Women's organisations have taken more interest in class questions (for working women and professional women) or in social questions, such as affiliation orders (which are not admitted with us), education and popular instruction, the protection of the mother and of the woman worker. These are the usual themes of discussion at our women's conferences, and works of charity and philanthropy take up the energies of almost all our ladies, among whom, however, there are many convinced Suffragists and many sympathisers. In Parliamentary circles, however, the question of the vote is the first of the women's questions. Since 1863, the year in which Peruzzi brought forward the first proposal for giving the Local Government vote to women, the question has always been discussed whenever franchise reform has come up. In 1888, Crispi (like your Gladstone) used the weight of his authority to oppose the favourable reception that the Chamber seemed inclined to give to the question of Women's Suffrage, and later on, Giolitti used all his habitually able tactics not only to prevent the reform from passing but even from coming to the vote. It is fairly safe to say that in political circles the opposition is no longer to the principle of Women's Suffrage, but is rather based on political expediency. It is thought that a great mass of new voters would disturb the equilibrium of parties, and there is more discussion about the kind of franchise that should be given than about actually giving it.

In Italy we have manhood suffrage, and the extreme Progressive Parties (and, of course, the Suffrage Societies) demand womanhood suffrage, which would double the number of voters. The moderate parties, and especially the conservatives, cannot consent to this, the demand for it is, indeed, the great reason for their opposition. Up till last April the Socialists (your Labour Party) and the Democrats and Radicals (your Liberal Party) were favourable to Women's Suffrage, together with individual members of other parties (among whom were the Minister for Foreign Affairs l'On : Sidney Sonnino, Luzzato, and others. The other parties did not (as parties) take any line. In April, a Bill initiated by l'On : Salandra was for giving votes to boys of the fighting forces under twenty-one and was brought forward by the Prime Minister, l'On : Orlando, on behalf of the Government. The Suffragists at once took action and demanded that Women's Suffrage should also be considered. On this occasion, the Official Socialists (that is the Socialists who oppose the war, and who form a separate Parliamentary group) proposed that women should be given votes on the same terms as men. A group of members of various parties, almost all of whom belonged to the Coalition group of members who support the war, and who were led by l'On : Sandrini, brought forward a proposal to give votes to all women who could read and write (or to be more exact, to grant it to women on the same terms as men had it, before the granting of the Illiterate vote). A third group of Radical deputies, led by l'On : Cotugno, proposed to give votes to women of thirty or more who could read or write, or who had lost a son in the war. The Prime Minister—l'On : Orlando—(who had been a notorious anti-Suffragist) declared that he was converted to Suffrage. He, however, declared that as the grant of the franchise to fighting men, under age, was not a modification of the electorial law but an act of homage to Youth, the whole complicated question of franchise reform could not be dealt with during that Session, and he proposed that it should be referred back for further deliberation. Thus, not only the proposals for Women's Suffrage, but all the other proposals about such questions as Proportional Representation, Plural Voting, the age of Members of Parliament, &c., were withdrawn.

To sum it up : the Debate of April 27th seems to have resulted in proving that the Franchise Reform cannot be touched without the question of Women's Suffrage being faced. The conversion of l'On : Orlando and the declaration made by l'On : Salandra (the recognised leader of an important section of the Conservative Party) were as unexpected as they were effective, and the result is already visible in the change of attitude of political and women's organisations. Now our efforts are directed, not only to spreading the Suffragist ideal, but also to obtaining such modifications in the legal position of women (especially the abolition of *Marital Authorisation*) as will take away from our adversaries all chance of putting off the discussion of the actual suffrage problem.

Our Suffragist organisation is rather modest, but nearly all the Women's Associations (notably the Association of the Women of the Northern Cities) have Women's Suffrage on their programme. Up till now propaganda has been carried on by the mildest methods (conferences, pamphlets, memorials, &c.) and there has never been the least attempt at "Suffragettism," although the accusation that we are Suffragettes is the one most constantly used against us by our opponents : and the fear of being taken for revolutionaries holds back many women from entering our organisation.

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Victorian Heroines.—IV.

THE WOMEN OF CHARLES READE'S NOVELS.

Charles Reade was nearly a very great novelist, and, therefore, nearly a very great man, but faults in character, style, and equipment prevented him from reaching a position in letters which on many counts he deserved, to which his admirers elevated him during his life, and on which he himself had no doubt that he was securely fixed. He thought that he was the most picturesque tale-teller whom the English language had ever produced, and made no concealment of this estimate; he thought that he was the most effective literary force of his day in the production of social reforms, and was prepared to maintain his claim by passionate personal assertion and documentary evidence of a bewilderingly composite sort—like the American quack who appealed for endorsement of his stories to "God Almighty on his throne and the testimonials in my little grip." In truth, Reade wrote one magnificent story, *The Cloister and the Hearth*, which had no direct bearing whatever on existing social questions, but was founded on historical rock; and many other powerful and dramatic novels in which he demonstrated his inability to maintain any very high literary level, and in which he damaged undoubtedly good efforts to remedy social abuses by his arrogant cock-sureness, patent over-statements, arbitrary arrangement of events, and mis-readings of his scrap-books. But these same novels are rattling good reading; they are well constructed, their impossibilities are made credible by an insistent eloquence and a basis of underlying fact, while they abound with life-like characters, apt pieces of information, and a hearty school-boy humour. Leaving aside *The Cloister and the Hearth* as a work totally apart from anything else that he did, both in largeness of scope and quality of execution, his restless novels produce something the effect of a melodrama on the cinematograph, and this is accounted for by the fact that his earliest popular successes, and his greatest, were those obtained by the sensational plays which he wrote, or in the writing of which he collaborated; he was for ever trying to obtain with the pen effects that can only be got with sureness by the assistance of actors, stage effects, and the general environment provided by the footlights. Horace, whom he frequently quoted, had warned him in vain.

From writing for the stage Charles Reade acquired his ability to construct his stories in a coherent and telling manner—that much he gained; but he suffered from forcing his characters into certain moulds and making them conform to general types, in accordance with the onus that is on the dramatic author. The dramatic author must leave no doubt in the minds of his audience what he would be at, inasmuch as he has only three hours or so in which to unfold his story, and it must be comprehensible at the moment of telling. This means that though there is room for some of the characters in a play to undergo conversions and display revulsions, the caste as a whole must conform to type, or the action—and the reference is only to plays of action, such as Reade's were—will be hopelessly tangled. To depict the sprouting of the figs of virtue from the thorns of vice is the special delight of the playwright, but the protagonists in the drama, if their vagaries are to have a meaning, must disport themselves against a background of consistency supplied by the rest of the caste. The situation in fiction, especially long and elaborate fiction like Reade's, is totally different, because, within limits, the space in which to explain apparent inconsistencies is at the author's disposal, and the time in which his readers are asked to bestow attention is not sold at so many shillings an hour. Reade, saturated with the stage traditions, tried to force his full-blooded, well-conceived characters into dramatic moulds. When his bad people became good, his cowardly people brave, and his emotional people calm, as they often did, their transformations were always according to pattern, and the author used them to indicate that he was the writer to come to if elaborate psychology and thoughtful reading of the human heart were in request. The psychology which he supplied was right or wrong, as the case might be—and it was very often right, for Reade was a learned man and an eager student of human nature—but the art was bad, because the dramatic method employed betrayed the author into so many broad and unfair statements concerning whole classes of people whose varieties were not being exploited in the particular case, and who were described consequently in general and generally unjust terms. Stage lawyers, capitalists, villains, doctors, and bankers pervade his pages, endowed with all the necessary attributes and clothes to make their stage virtues and vices credible, and their existence in a world of fact totally incredible.

The puzzling attitude of Reade towards women, as evidenced in his novels, has its origin in these methods of his. He is for ever generalising about women as he generalised about the different social classes, and with similar ill-success. The phrases "one of those inspirations her sex have," "feminine logic," a weakness of her sex," "women have eyes in the back of their heads," will all be found in one popular novel within a few pages of each other, and the intention of the phrases is to thrust all women into one class apart from men, as possessing less reason than men and more intuition. The intention is benevolent if patronising, but the persistence of that kind of thing can seldom be associated with real championship of women. And yet Reade was a powerful champion of women, and all the more powerful because his pen did service for women unwittingly. When he was trying to be analytical and psychological he drew his sex distinctions, and he appeared to think, so much did he insist upon them, that his was the acute intellect that had discovered them, and to be ignorant that similar sweeping flattery or detraction might be found in the pages of nearly every novel writer previous to or contemporary with him, as well as in the pages of his favourite classics. But when the torrent of these turbulent narratives whirls the writer along, and when he is forgetting to be clever, his attitude towards women is totally changed, for he shows by the acts of his heroines and his lesser people that for him no fundamental sex discrepancies exist in reality, and that, in all those circumstances of life which count, one may have to admire any so-called manly virtue in a woman, and to reprobate any so-called feminine vice in a man. In this practical way he advocated the rights of women, and became their verbose and valorous knight, without inditing a word which had as its definite object their advancement, and but few words which can be interpreted as admitting any injustice in their social treatment. But it may be said that when his women complain of their social limitations he sides with them. Lucy Fountain, a nubile beauty of the 'sixties, exclaims "Two lines are open to our honourable ambitions—marriage and water colours. My ambition chooses the altar and not the easel." Reade proceeds to show by Lucy's career that she had his sympathy in her dilemma.

Reade's two first novels, *Peg Woffington* and *Christie Johnstone*, are called after two of his best heroines, and of these Peg Woffington is perhaps the more lifelike and appealing, though her nobility of character is manifested in less sensational circumstances. The book is constructed out of the episode which led Reade, in collaboration with Tom Taylor, to write the well-known play "Masks and Faces," and is dedicated by the author "to the memory of Margaret Woffington, falsely summed up until to-day." It is characteristic of Reade to assert in front of his book the statement that here, for the first time, can the truth be read, but we may be sure that in support of his rendering of the famous Irishwoman's character he could have produced bundles of notes and newspaper extracts from the scrap-books which represented his "little grip." His methods of composition are explained frankly in an autobiographical sketch introduced into one of his latest novels, *A Terrible Temptation*. There is no need to remind the reader of the plot of *Peg Woffington*, which, like *Never too Late to Mend*, has been immensely popularised by the stage version, but *Christie Johnstone* is familiar to a narrower circle. It tells how a *blasé* viscount, drawn with the necessary stage attributes of good nature, generosity, and incomparable languor, finds salvation in gaining acquaintanceship with the Scottish coast, and, at the same time, with a beautiful fisher girl. The love story is thoroughly well told; the vividness and picturesqueness of the narrative, qualities supplied alike by the descriptions and by the life-like reporting of conversations, transform what might have remained in less vigorous hands mere sentimentality into a romance wherein most of the honours are won by Christie. Readers, at any rate the mass of English readers, were not ready in 1850 for Daisy Miller or Rose Jocelyn, and were ready for more full-blooded girls than Ethel Newcome or Elizabeth Bennet, whose creator was suffering an eclipse; while Scott's heroines lived their lives in times so far gone by that greater effort of the imagination was asked before their appeal went home. For this reason or that, Reade was

immediately received on the publication of his first works as a great interpreter of a woman's heart, and though in none of his later novels did he make good the position so clearly as in his first admirable two, in none, either, did he lose his power, and in none did he fail to display his heroine as a desirable mate, whose physical, mental, and moral qualities could be put to the same tests as might be exacted from him who sought her. He might write "She was always under the influence of some male mind," or "What young woman is not more or less a mirror?"; but in the books where such dogmas occur, the initiative in many of the most critical events are taken by the women. In his actions towards women Reade was always more generous and more just than in his word.

In *The Cloister and the Hearth* Catherine, the mother, and Margaret, the lover, are beautifully portrayed. They are fitting companions to Gerard and Denys in one of the greatest romances in our language; if their qualities are too radiantly excellent they are not for this reason out of tone in a picture which is a gorgeous transcript of a many coloured epoch. In *Love me Little, Love me Long*, and its sequel, *Hard Cash*, we are on a lower plane, and Lucy, first as lover and then as mother, has her weaknesses, which are reproduced in her daughter, Julia. They are flesh and blood people, and hold their own in the usual trials of true love and the unusual stresses laid upon them by a highly sensational author. A favourite heroine in her day was Jael Dence, a Lancashire peasant girl, and counterpart, in her simplicity, her naive shrewdness, and her physical splendour, of Christie Johnstone. Her unselfish love for the hero of *Put Yourself in His Place* is a pretty concomitant to a good deal of bunkum, and her absolute self-respect and innate purity are made convincing by events not words, and in circumstances where self-surrender might have brought about her heart's desire; she deserved better than to become the wife of the fatuous old snob whom Reade, with an eye on the transpontine gallery, depicted as a high-minded Tory squire. None of Reade's later books, except, perhaps, *Foul Play*, reached the standard even of *Put Yourself in His Place*, but in all of them the same practical appreciation of women as citizens and help-mates appears, side by side with the author's aphoristic relegations of women to a particular mental make-up. Also women play persistently the *rôle* of saviour, in the later as in the earlier books, and they save by action, not by beautiful examples. In *Griffith Gaunt* two magnanimous women have all the limelight. In *The Wandering Heir* the girl in boy's clothes is an excrescence on the story, but she plays a fine part in Reade's version of the Annesley peerage claim, a case which has proved so attractive to novelists, for it was well analysed by Smollett at the end of *Peregrine Pickle*, was Scott's inspiration for *Guy Mannering*, and, to some extent, Stevenson's for *Kidnapped*. Reade almost appears never to have read *Peregrine Pickle*, and his version of the story is a wrong one.

It is not likely that Reade will ever reach again the popularity that he enjoyed fifty years ago, but, on the other hand, his place in English literature to-day, through the general admiration of *The Cloister and the Hearth*, is a far higher one than he could ever have reached if his claims to memory had been based upon the books that won him his enormous audiences—*Never too Late to Mend, Put Yourself in His Place, Foul Play*, and (for not the best of reasons) *A Terrible Temptation*. And in Reade's best book, his noble story of the Middle Ages, will be found two of his finest women.

[Other articles in this series appeared as follows: Peacock's Women, April 5th; Thackeray's, April 12th; Dickens's, May 3rd.]

Reviews.

RECENT VERSE.

Coal and Candlelight. By Helen Parry Eden. (John Lane. 3s. 6d.)
On Heaven and Other Poems. By Ford Maddox Hueffer. (Lane. 3s. 6d.)

Those who cherish *Bread and Circuses* will search eagerly in Mrs. Parry's new volume for those things which made her first book memorable—humour, tenderness, lightness of touch, a keen eye and ear for beauty, a happy way with words and notions. They will be a little disappointed. These qualities are absent from the larger number of poems in *Coal and Candlelight*, which are often too long and rather dull. There is nothing here to match "Vox Clamantis," "The Third Birthday," "The Moon," or "The Snare." "The Ballad of Lords and Ladies" recalls, but does not match in merit, "The Epitaph on a Child Run Over and Killed by a Motor in the Street" (a poem which every reformer should know), perhaps because the subject is not so poignant either to writer or reader; it is, however, like the Epitaph, inspired by righteous indignation and restrained (and equally righteous) bitterness.

The best poems in this volume are "A Parley with Grief" and "The Admonition: To Betsy," from which these lines are taken:—

"*Remember, on your knees,*
The men who guard your slumbers—
And guard a house in a still street
Of drifting leaves and drifting feet,
A deep blue window where below
Lies moonlight on the roofs like snow, . .
. . . And guard all small and drowsy people
Whom gentlest dusk doth disattire,
Undressing by the nursery fire
In unperturbed numbers
On this side of the seas—
Remember, on your knees,
The men who guard your slumbers."

Mr. Hueffer, in a slangy and slightly childish preface, says that he thinks "that, in these sad days and years, we have got to believe in Heaven—and we shall be happier if it is a materialist's Heaven."

Mr. Hueffer should have spoken only for himself. No one worth his salt would *decide* to believe in Heaven because of "sad days and years," even supposing that by so deciding he could begin to believe if he had not done so before. This poet's heaven is, as he says, materialistic—it is, in fact, "a little town near Lyons," where he can sit in a café all day, and to which his love comes (in a "long red car"), and where God is "a man of great stature," and "a good brother." Despite its length and chattiness, and digressions and heartiness (for Mr. Hueffer is incorrigibly "muscular"), the poem is extraordinarily readable and charming. It is written in verse of the utmost freedom, except for occasional rhymes. The repetition of the phrase, "Even in Heaven," reminds us vividly of the children's chant in Miss Stella Benson's novel, "This is the End."

Of Mr. Hueffer's other poems, "The Silver Music" and "The Iron Music" are pleasant but unoriginal, and "A Solis Ortus Cardine" is very touching and successful.

E. B. C. J.

Obituary.

Mr. Ralph Rooper.

We deeply regret to record the death in action of Mr. Ralph Bonfoy Rooper, who was killed, on May 29th, while serving with the French Croix Rouge. Mr. Rooper, who was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Rooper, of Speldhurst, Kent, and the nephew of Miss Maude Royden, was a very strong Suffragist. He had been so from boyhood, and his first speech at the Union, at Oxford, was on Women's Suffrage. Last year he took part in writing the "Making of Women: Oxford Essays in Feminism," contributing the essay entitled "Women Enfranchised." At the time when the war began he had only lately entered what promised to be a career of great distinction at Oxford. He immediately volunteered for the Army, and when he was refused, on account of health, he threw himself into Red Cross work. His death at twenty-four years old has deprived the Feminist Movement of one of the most brilliant and devoted of its younger supporters.

Correspondence.

LEGISLATION AND THE SOCIAL PROBLEM.

Madam,—I am glad you have thrown open your columns to a discussion on the vexed question of penalising the communication of disease, for it is a matter which needs to be seriously faced. As to the personal question raised by Miss Royden, I need not take up your space. I have already expressed to her my regret for my unintentional discourtesy in omitting to send her a copy of a certain letter.

A year ago, influenced largely by the able writings of Dr. Fiaux, of Paris, I printed a leaflet, arguing that the law ought to penalise the actual communication of venereal disease, and that though convictions might be few, such a law would have a valuable educational and deterrent effect. In my summing up, which Miss Royden quotes, there is nothing I wish to change or retract. I now recognise (as we all do) that any such enactment must be hedged round with provisos and safeguards.

Further, I have come to see that cases differ so widely in circumstances, responsibility, and degree of guilt that I do not believe they can or ought to be all included under the same clause, nor subjected to the same penalty. It is this point which I should like to put forward in this letter.

If we agree in principle that the knowing or negligent transmission of venereal disease should be recognised as a crime, let us see what are the actions which we should wish the law to condemn. (I am not now considering the question of proof, which is itself a wide and difficult question.)

The chief kinds of conduct which deserve reprobation and punishment in this matter are these:—

1. When a husband knowingly exposes his wife (and unborn child) to the risk of infection by sexual intercourse.

2. When one person conveys (or risks conveying) infection to another by illicit sexual intercourse.

3. When any person who knows himself to have a contagious sore or discharge fails to use proper precautions about towels, cups, lavatories, &c., and so exposes other persons to risk of infection.

4. When any person having the care of children, by negligence allows them to be infected directly or indirectly. (An instance is that of a woman who took her sister into her own dirty and overcrowded household, though warned by the workhouse doctor that the sister was in a highly contagious condition: in a few weeks three of the children were infected with V.D. Here it was not the diseased person who should be held responsible, but the mother who knowingly exposed her children to danger.)

In regard to the second class there is a pronounced difference of opinion: but as to the other three classes, surely there would be general agreement that an offence has been committed, and that in so far as penal law can do anything to prevent crime, this is a proper sphere for its action.

Before considering these classes separately, I wish to explain the change in my views since I wrote the leaflet in 1017. I have now recognised that it is neither just nor expedient to limit prosecution and

punishment to the cases where actual disease has resulted. The offence is in exposing another person to danger; whether in the given case disease actually follows is a matter beyond the control of the offender. If negligence is culpable it is equally culpable whether the evil consequence actually occurs or not. On this point I believe there is no divergence between Miss Royden and myself.

I submit that no one enactment can deal properly with the different classes of cases I have enumerated. In penal legislation, the penalty ought to bear some relation to the degree of guilt; otherwise it confuses all sense of values and loses its deterrent effect. The four classes of conduct which I have described, though all reprehensible, differ so much in degree of guilt that it would be monstrous to make all liable to the same penalty.

I suggest that carelessness in the use of cups, towels, &c., by a V.D. patient is comparable to the recklessness involved in travelling in a public vehicle when suffering from small-pox or scarlatina, and that it would properly be met by a similar penalty (viz., if I remember right, a maximum fine of £5).

Negligently to expose a child to known danger of disease—whether venereal or other—should be liable to the same penalty as other kinds of neglect or exposure likely to cause injury to health.

What penalty could be too heavy for the cruelty of infecting an unsuspecting wife or husband? Yet there is something repugnant in the idea of one partner seeking vengeance on the other, and many people think the case would be better met by allowing V.D. as a ground for a judicial declaration of nullity of marriage.

But if it be held that infection in marriage should be punished by imprisonment—say for two years as provided in the Criminal Law Amendment Bill and its successors—there is surely an extraordinary lack of proportion in inflicting the same penalty for infection by illicit intercourse. Probably the most rigid hygienist would agree that a husband or wife has a right to expect safety in marriage, and that even the strictest rules can never make promiscuous intercourse safe. It must always be—to borrow a simile from a distinguished medical writer—as dangerous as crossing a battlefield under fire. To impose the *same* penalty in the one case as in the other involves hopeless confusion not only of the moral issue, but also of the hygienic issue.

I must acknowledge one grave mistake in the 1917 leaflet—namely, that I described the proposal as "simple." That mistake was shared apparently by those who framed the clause in the C.L.A. Bill dealing with the same matter. It is very far from simple, and the whole question needs much more ventilation than it has hitherto had—at least in this country.

I hope the suggestions in this letter will be regarded simply as a basis for discussion. I am reluctant now to advocate any proposal in this difficult matter till I know what can be said against it.

HELEN WILSON.

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF FAMILIES.

MADAM,—May I, through the medium of your columns, ask those who are interested in the question of Family Endowment, and who would be prepared to speak on the subject at meetings in different parts of the country, to communicate with me? The proposal is arousing a great deal of interest, as it touches women's interests at so many points, and the demand for speakers is at present greater than the supply.

ELINOR BURNS.

34, Downshire Hill, London, N.W. 3.
June 1st, 1918.

Reports and Notices.

THE BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMAN SUFFRAGE UNION.

The third Biennial Conference of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union was held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of last week.

The first resolution to be passed was one of congratulation to the women of Great Britain and Ireland on having achieved their "first instalment of justice in the grant of the Suffrage, and to the women of Canada on the splendid Suffrage successes of the last two years," and of greeting and hope to the Suffragists of South Africa.

MRS. FAWCETT opened the Conference with an interesting address on "Equal Suffrage for the Empire." Mrs. Fawcett gave a *résumé* of the history of Women's Suffrage throughout the Empire during the last two years.

MRS. AUERBACH pointed out that although South Africa was the only British Dominion which had not granted Women's Suffrage, the situation there was much more hopeful, and more progress had been made than could be gathered from the brief statements made in this country. The amendment to enfranchise women had been defeated, but as there had been no question of bringing in new classes of men voters, it was not a matter for surprise.

MISS SHEEPSHANKS read a paper on "Equal Eligibility of Women with Men for all Offices and Employments," and gave an interesting account of the various legal and administrative posts held by women in Europe and America.

The chief interest of the morning, however, centred round a discussion on "Equal Pay for Equal Work and the Endowment of Motherhood." In opening this, MISS K. D. COURTNEY said that we were a haphazard nation, but the most haphazard department was that which dealt with mother and child.

MISS MAUDE ROYDEN then outlined a scheme of mothers' pensions. Allowances should be made, she said, on a scale proportionate with the family; but part of the payment should be definitely the mother's, and a decreasing allowance made for every child. The allowances should begin before the birth of the child, and that for the mother should cease when the youngest child went to school. These payments should have no connection either with philanthropy or the Poor Law, and there should be a flat rate for rich and poor alike. There should be a minimum of

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The afternoon session dealt with "Equal Parental Rights and Responsibilities," and the status of the illegitimate child.

Fru Anker gave an interesting account of the Legitimisation Laws which obtain in Norway.

Miss Chrystal Macmillan spoke on the nationality of married women, and a resolution urging the desirability of securing uniformity of policy and action throughout the Empire, and that laws should provide that a British woman did not lose her nationality on marriage with an alien, was passed.

On Wednesday morning Miss Alison Neilans gave an account of recent legislation in self-governing Dominions concerning venereal disease. This was followed by addresses from Dr. Jane Walker and Dr. Edward Beadon Turner (Chairman, British Medical Association) on the reasonableness of expecting from men the same moral standard as from women.

A resolution condemning the practice of regularly supplying prophylactics to soldiers on leave was passed.

The afternoon session was devoted to the discussion of divorce. Mrs. Seaton Tiedeman, of the Divorce Law Reform Union, urged the breaking up of the separation system, and recommended the formation of Courts of Domestic Relations, which, among other duties, would recover the maintenance of illegitimate children from the father. Mrs Ronald Bayne and Mrs. Wyndham Knight Bruce spoke against any widening of the grounds of divorce.

Leonard Woolf, Esq., addressed the Conference on the question of International Government.

On Thursday morning Miss Mercy Ashworth, A.R.C.Sc., B.S.C., spoke on "Women and the Administration of the Law." In the course of her speech she made an interesting suggestion as to the cause of the increase of juvenile crime. It was not, she opined, a bad sign. Many had said it was owing to the absence of fathers on War Service, but she believed it was due to an increase in the vitality of the children owing to better feeding. This suggestion was confuted by further speakers.

Captain St. John, of the Penal Reform League, spoke on the necessity of appointing women prison-commissioners, and of a committee of women to engage women governors for women's prisons, and properly qualified nursing sisters for all prisons.

Miss Damer Dawson, Commandant, Women Police Service, gave an account of the W.P.S. A resolution urging that a body of trained police-women be established in every city, to be paid by the State and given the same status as men police, was unanimously carried.

Lord Henry Bentinck, speaking on the "Duty of British Citizens in the Motherland and Self-Governing Dominions to their Fellow-Citizens in the Crown Colonies and Dependencies," contended that it was not only in the cause of humanity, but the best policy to trust the native. He contended that India should become a self-governing Dominion, and that the salvation of India lay only in the hands of Indians. Mrs. Ransom told the beautiful story of Sita Rama and its influence on India, and Mrs. P. L. Roy gave a deeply stirring address on the Spirit of India. Mrs. E. A. R. Haigh, in a speech on India and Anglo-India, made some caustic remarks on the attitude of Anglo-Indians to the natives of India. Mrs. Bhola Nauth gave a wholly amusing and delightful vindication of the mother-in-law, and the evening ended with an urgent appeal for closer union between India and the Dominions from Mrs. Henry S. L. Polak.

This concluded one of the most interesting and instructive conferences that the B.D.W.S.U. has yet held.

ASSOCIATION OF HEAD MISTRESSES.

At the afternoon session of the large Conference held by the Association of Head Mistresses on Friday, June 7th, at the North London Collegiate School, the Report of the Salaries and Pensions Sub-Committee was discussed.

Miss G. Tanner, M.A. (of the County Secondary School, Putney), Chairman of the Sub-Committee, moved the adoption of the Report, and the following resolution:—

"*That this Conference is in favour of the principle of equal pay for equal work.*"

Miss Tanner urged that the work of women teachers was no less arduous than that of the men, and no less efficiently carried out. Some of the arguments against equal pay were that women having accepted a lower scale of salary showed that this was all they needed; that the laws of economics, of supply and demand, made it necessary that women should be paid less; and that women were weaker in health and more often absent than men. With regard to economic laws, men and women were not here to be ruled by them, but to control them. The idea of taking women for less because you could get them was contrary to modern ethics, which do not regard men and women as objects to be bought and sold. As for the inferior health of women—that was not a cause, but a result of insufficient salaries. There was a growing public opinion in favour of equal pay. The principle was already established in Norway, New Zealand, and some of the States of America.

Miss G. J. McCrea, M.A. (Stafford Girls' High School), in seconding, said that the chief reason she would urge the Association to support the resolution was that it touched women's interests in all departments of national life. If by passing the resolution to-day they brought nearer the time when women and men teachers should be paid on the same terms, they would also be helping on the cause of women in industry. In the past bad industrial conditions for women had reacted unfavourably in the teaching profession; and conversely, they could believe that a rise in professional standards would react favourably on industry. A clear lead from the Association might help more than they, in their modesty, imagined, to raise the status of women, both industrial and professional, and thus indirectly ensure the well-being of children.

The resolution was carried with six dissentients.

The following resolution and addendum were also moved and seconded by Miss Tanner and Miss McCrea, and carried:—

"That this Conference is profoundly dissatisfied with the manner in which the Fisher Grant has in many cases been allocated, and begs the Board of Education to take steps to ensure a fair distribution of the grant for the purpose for which it was intended.

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"That the Conference welcomes the announcement of the Board of Education that the Board regards teachers' salaries as the primary object to which the new grants should be applied, and that they purpose to make systematic enquiry as early as circumstances permit with the view to ascertaining whether this condition is being adequately met in all schools in the Grant List, and of taking such further action as may be necessary where it is not."

On Saturday, June 8th, the following resolution was proposed by the President (Miss Reta, Oldham), and carried unanimously:—

"That this Conference heartily supports the Education Bill which is now before Parliament, and holds that its provisions are of the most vital importance to the moral and intellectual welfare of the nation."

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
MISS MARGARET JONES.
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Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1917	1,694	19	9
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SUBSCRIPTIONS.			
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Bacup W.S.S.		5	0
Greenock W.S.S.	1	17	6
Petersfield W.S.S.		14	0
Cockermouth W.S.S.		10	6
DONATIONS.			
Miss M. L. Pendered		5	0
Sale of jewellery given by Miss Ursula Thompson	6	0	0
St. Albans W.S.S.	9	19	8
Shanklin W.S.S.	1	6	7
Miss Sloane	5	5	0
Leicester W.S.S.	1	15	0
West Herts W.S.S.	3	0	0
Anonymous		10	0
Per Celebration Fund ...	1,122	7	7
Miss Charlotte Taylor	1	0	0
Mrs. Harrison Barrow	2	0	0
Mrs. Mundella	1	0	0
Birmingham W.S.S.	30	17	6
	£2,913	3	1

THIRD "COMMON CAUSE" HUT.

This hut, which is for the W.A.A.C. on Salisbury Plain, still needs support to the amount of £150. Who will help us by sending donations, or by buying the pearl and peridot brooch which a friend has given us in aid of the Hut? The brooch, which can be inspected at THE COMMON CAUSE office, is valued at £3 10s., but we are willing to receive offers for a less sum.

The following kind donations are gratefully acknowledged:

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	594	19	0
A. G.	1	0	0
G. A.		2	6
	£596	1	6

LONDON UNITS, SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

After several days of absolute silence, made anxious because of the reports of severe fighting round Villers Cotterets, news was received that all the *personnel* of the Scottish Women's Hospital in Northern France were safe.

One of the Staff at Villers Cotterets reported at the London office on June 6th, and told the story of the evacuation of Villers Cotterets, which was sufficiently exciting, although everything was carried out with that quiet method which makes these accounts seem almost banal in the telling.

During the raids which preceded the final evacuation, a constant stream of patients came in the whole night long, taking the places of those who were being sent away into safety in trains and cars. Miss Ivens had to perform operations by candlelight, and the radiographers carried on their work in imminent expectation of their tubes bursting, so excessive was the vibration from the explosions near by.

No patient or member of the Staff was in any way injured, and the canteens at Creil and Crepy were equally fortunate in their evacuation.

A gift of £1,000 has been received from Sir Ernest Cassel for the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, in response to Miss May Curwen's appeal.

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IF you do not now face up to the problem of providing a suitable income against the day when you can no longer expect to be among the income-earners, what possible ground have you for feeling that later on you may be better able to do so?

It is a problem that has haunted many a woman in the past and, if shirked even till another birthday has passed, its ultimate solution becomes all the more difficult.

Independence is the birthright of the Englishwoman equally with the Englishman, and a Pension or Endowment Policy with the NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY is the best foundation of solid independence which can be laid as against the time when well-earned rest ought to follow on work well done.

Full particulars on application to the nearest Branch or Agency, or to the Head Office at Norwich of

THE NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY,

THE OUTSTANDING BRITISH LIFE OFFICE.

WOMEN WORKERS & THE FUTURE.—1.

A New Booklet for Women Workers.

Every wage-earning woman knows that she cannot go on working for ever and that she must sooner or later face the problem of providing for her later years when she will wish to retire from active life or be forced to do so because she is no longer able to continue working.

An interesting booklet on this subject, entitled "The Future of Women Workers" has just been issued by the Scottish Widows Fund.

Written especially for women, it clearly shows the value of Mutual Life Assurance to women workers and explains how, by small annual payments out of present earnings, a woman may make provision for her own future, and, if necessary, for that of her dependents.

Secure a copy NOW and give it careful perusal! Sent free on request.

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N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Result of an appeal made by Miss Etta Shankland, Organiser, S.W.H., in Kilmarnock, for "Kilmarnock and District" Ward in the "Elsie Inglis" Hospital, Sallanches, France.

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	£106	5	3

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	£131	19	3

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	£147	11	7½

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Reports from Societies.

ORRELL AND DISTRICT WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.—A meeting was held on May 28th. There were present about forty women. Miss Whitton opened a discussion on 40D, and a resolution of protest was unanimously passed.

Copies will be forwarded to the members for the Ince Division, in which Orrell is, and for Wigan.

The Association is growing in numbers, there now being between twenty and thirty who have paid the membership subscription.

HUNSTANTON.—A very representative meeting was held in the Town Hall, on May 30th. Mrs. Bell, the President of the branch, presided, and after a short and helpful address called upon Miss Mercer from London who gave a very interesting and instructive speech on: "Am I a Woman Citizen?" At the close of the speech it was decided by the unanimous vote of the meeting to form a Women Citizens' League. The Secretary being instructed to call together representatives from the various women's organisations in the town to form a committee.

WORTHING FRANCHISE SOCIETY.—Nearly 300 members and friends accepted the invitation of the officers and committee of the Worthing Women's Franchise Society to meet Mrs. Fawcett on May 28th. The audience included the members of the Findon Women's Parish Council; the Durrington Women's Parish Council; representative of the Women's Liberal and the Women's Co-operative Guild.

The gathering was held at the County High School and Mrs. Harold Parker, President of the Worthing Branch took the Chair.

Mrs. Fawcett, who was greeted with great enthusiasm, expressed the pleasure at speaking in a hall dedicated to the education of girls. "It was education," she said, "which had laid the foundation for the wonderful work women had been able to do for the country in this war, and which, in its turn, had helped to win the Parliamentary Franchise." Mrs. Fawcett sketched the history of the Suffrage movement with telling points that were much appreciated by her audience.

Mrs. Harold Parker from the Chair proposed the following resolution: "That this meeting records its deep sense of gratitude to Mrs. Henry Fawcett for her life-long work in the furtherance of the social and political liberty of women; that they recognise that it is largely owing to her consistent effort and wise leadership that the vote has been won, and that by her pioneer work in the higher education and professional advancement of women they have been enabled to come forward and enter every field of labour with acknowledged ability and thus render inestimable help to their country in its time of need."

WELLINGBOROUGH.—This Society has been very active this year. Since Christmas, work parties have met and made a dozen shirts for the S.W.H. On April 18th, an entertainment was organised by the president, Miss Mary L. Pendered, and the proceeds, £18 5s. 3d., sent to the London Units of the S.W.H., which supplied leaflets distributed in the hall. In conjunction with other organised bodies of women in the town, two mass meetings for women were arranged in April and May, and were well attended. They were addressed by Dr. Marion Phillips, on "The New Privileges and Responsibilities of Women," and Miss Margaret Jones, on "Some Social Aspects of Legislation." Members of the Society have been elected on most of the committees of the town formed for objects of charity or reform. They have been active in helping to obtain a Maternity Centre and second District Nurse; and in holding a Baby Show last summer. They have been recently working for a Y.M.C.A. hut, and are now agitating on behalf of the Y.W.C.A.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

JUNE 17.

Birmingham—Yardley Sisterhood—Use of Vote and Housing—Mrs. Ring 3.0 p.m.

JUNE 19.

Birmingham—Balsall Heath Co-operative Guild—Use of Vote—Mrs. Ring 2.45 p.m.

JUNE 20.

Birmingham—Queen's Hotel, New Street—Annual Meeting—Miss Chrystal Macmillan—Chair: Rev. Ivory Cripps 8.0 p.m.

JUNE 22.

Sheffield—Ecclesall Grange, Sheffield (by permission of Mr. H. A. L. Fisher)—West Riding Federation Annual Meeting—Speakers: Mrs. V. Strachey 3.0 p.m.

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

JUNE 17.

Liverpool—Concert Room, St. George's Hall—Miss Vera Holme will give Lantern Lecture—subject: "S.W.H. in Russia and Roumania"—Chair: Lt.-Col. Sir James Barr, M.D. 3.0 p.m.

JUNE 18.

Waterloo—Town Hall—Miss V. Holme—Lantern Lecture—subject: "S.W.H. in Serbia"—Chair: Dr. Sumner 8.0 p.m.

JUNE 19.

Wallasey—Presbyterian Hall, Manor Road (kindly lent)—Miss V. Holme—Lantern Lecture—subject: "S.W.H. in Russia and Roumania"—Chair: Dr. Bouverie McDonald, J.P. 8.15 p.m.

JUNE 20.

Birkenhead—Argyle Theatre—Miss V. Holme—Lantern Lecture—subject: "S.W.H. in Serbia"—Chair: His Worship the Mayor of Birkenhead 2.30 p.m.

Coming Events.

JUNE 20th—Free Church League for W.S.—Essex Hall, Strand—Meeting—subject: "Women and the Way Out"—Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Hobhouse, &c. 7.30 p.m.

MISS MAUDE ROYDEN Preaches in the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, next Sunday, at the 6 p.m. Service. (Moral Problems: (2) "The Sex Problem To-day.")

MRS. GRIEVE, of "The Whins" Vegetable Drug and Herb Plant Nursery, Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks., is issuing several pamphlets on Medicinal and other useful Hedgerow Herbs. These give full information in a concise and complete form, of the properties of each plant and directions as to culture, which are of value, not only to those specialising in the study of Drugs, but also to those interested in general Botanical study. Special Leaflets on any given subject cost 7d. post free.—All Medicinal Plants are grown in the "Physic Garden" at "The Whins," and are of the utmost utility for students. Mrs. Grieve, moreover, gives instruction by post, and would be pleased to send full information of the "Course," on application to "The Whins" as above.

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BRITISH UNION for ABOLITION of VIVISECTION
ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING
Thursday Next, June 20th, at 7 p.m.
CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER
Chairman:
Lord Channing of Wellingborough
Speakers:
Viscount Harberton. Sir J. Rolleston.
H. G. Chancellor, Esq., M.P. Dr. Hadwen, J.P.
Rev. J. Baird, J.P. Rev. H. G. Morton, B.A.
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Fee for the Course: One Guinea.
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Continued from page 107.]

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